

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 CU-00 HA-05 /075 W

-----089150 041653Z /47

R 032102Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6365

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN

SUBJECT: STUDENTS LAMBASTE GOVERNMENT IN PRESS

1. THE MARCH 29 EDITION OF THE GOP-CONTROLLED "CRITICA" CARRIED A LONG LETTER TO TORRIJOS FROM OLIMPO SAEZ, A LEADER OF THE CAMILO TORRES CIRCLE (CCT). THE CCT IS A UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA STUDENT ORGANIZATION WITH MOST, IF NOT ALL, ITS STRENGTH IN THE LAW SCHOOL. IT IS A SMALL ULTRA-LEFT GROUP WHICH IS DISTINGUISHED FROM HALF A DOZEN SIMILAR GROUPS MAINLY IN THAT IT MIXES CHRISTIANITY WITH ITS WAY-OUT MARXISM. ROMULO ESCOBAR BETHANCOURT, WHO IS INTER ALIA THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICE, DELIVERED THE LETTER TO THE NEWSPAPER FOR PUBLICATION, INDICATING TORRIJOS HAD DIRECTED HIM TO DO SO. THE LETTER IS DATED DECEMBER 1977.

2. THE LETTER URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A COHERENT POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, BECAUSE IN THE CURRENT STATE OF IDEOLOGICAL VACUUM, INDIVIDUALS IN POWER ABUSE THEIR POSITIONS FOR PERSONAL GAIN. SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS ARE: WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION, THE INADEQUACY OF THE NEW TREATIES, BUNGLING OF PANAMA'S ECONOMIC PLANNING AND THE "UNDEMOCRATIC"

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NATURE OF THE 1972 CONSTITUTION. THE GROUP RECOMMENDS THAT TORRIJOS SCRAP THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS AND FORM A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TO LAST NO MORE THAN THREE YEARS, AT THE END OF WHICH A "NEW" POLITICAL ORDER WOULD ARISE BASED ON TRULY DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES.

3. COMMENT: IT IS NOT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR WHY TORRIJOS

WOULD WANT THIS DATED, IMPRACTICAL, ANTI-GOVERNMENT
AND REALLY RATHER TIRESOME LETTER TO BE PUBLISHED NOW.
SOME POSSIBLE REASONS COME TO MIND: IT GIVES "EVIDENCE"
OF THE OPEN-MINDEDNESS AND OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
IN PANAMA, AND IT SETS UP A STRAW MAN WHICH CAN BE
KNOCKED DOWN IN THE MEDIA. EDITORIALISTS AND GOSSIP
COLUMNISTS WERE SNIPING AT THE CCT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE PUBLICATION OF THE CCT LETTER, CLAIMING THAT TORRIJOS,
AND NOT THE CCT, IS IN TOUCH WITH THE TRUE THOUGHTS OF
THE PEOPLE.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISM, YOUTH GROUPS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA02168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D780145-0536
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780499/aaaadgkc.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 69e580b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3092899
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENTS LAMBASTE GOVERNMENT IN PRESS
TAGS: PINT, PN, (SAEZ, OLIMPO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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